

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-3 (canceled):

Claim 4 (currently amended):        A network node having optical add modules and drop modules for a bidirectional ring network that has a working connection and a protection connection to other network nodes, comprising:

        a first drop module and a first add module positioned on a protection module for bidirectional protection connection; and

        a second drop module and a second add module positioned on a working module for bidirectional working connection, wherein the second drop module and the first add module are positioned in series with respect to a second fiber ring, ~~and~~ wherein the first drop module and the second add module are positioned in series with respect to a first fiber ring and wherein the add and drop functions are arranged on two separate boards.

Claim 5 (previously presented):        The network node as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the first drop and add modules of the protection module and the second drop and add modules of the working module each have a line input and a line output such that the first drop and add modules and the second drop and add modules are each insertable in the first or second fiber rings.

Claim 6 (currently amended):        A network node having optical add modules and drop modules for a unidirectional ring network which has a working connection and a protection connection to other network nodes, comprising:

        a first drop module and a first add module positioned on a protection module for protection connection; and

a second drop module and a second add module positioned on a working module for working connection, wherein the first drop module and the first add module are inserted in series in a second fiber ring, ~~and~~ the second drop module and the second add module are inserted in series in a first fiber ring and wherein the add and drop functions are arranged on two separate boards.

Claim 7 (previously presented):      The network node as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the first drop and add modules and the second drop and add modules each have a line input and a line output such that the first drop and add modules and the second drop and add modules are insertable in series into the first fiber ring or the second fiber ring.